

based on the destination manually inputted in the input step;

program code for a determination step of determining whether the ID is designated in the designation step; and

44 program code for a control step of controlling the notification step in accordance with a determination result of the determination step,

wherein the notification step notifies the user's data processing terminal of information related to a data transmission upon completion of the data transmission performed in the transmission step.

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 18, 2001. Claims 1-4 and 6-23 remain pending in this application, with Claims 1, 7, 13, 18, and 19 having been amended as to matters of form. Claims 1, 7, 13, and 17-23 are independent claims. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1, 7, 13, 18, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant has carefully reviewed and amended those claims, as deemed necessary, with special attention to the points raised in sections 5-9 of the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 1, 7, 13, 18, and 19 are sufficiently definite and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-12, 18, 19, and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,119,142 (Kosaka). Claim 8 stands

rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kosaka in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,644,404 (Hashimoto et al.). Claims 13-17 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kosaka in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,552,901 (Kikuchi et al.). Applicant submits that independent Claims 1, 7, 13, and 17-23, together with the claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is directed to a data communication system. The system includes a connector, an operation input unit, a data transmitter, and a notification unit. The connector connects the system to a network, which is connectable to a plurality of data processing terminals. The operation input unit receives a manual designation inputted by an operator. The data transmitter transmits data based on the designation inputted by the operation input unit. The data is transmitted to an external data communication terminal via a line that does not include the connector. The notification unit notifies a data processing terminal, via the connector, of transmission result information representing a data transmission performed by the data transmitter based on the designation inputted by the operation input unit. The notification unit notifies the data processing terminal of the transmission result information in accordance with a change in state of the data communication system, and also notifies the data processing terminal of the transmission result information related to the data transmission upon completion of the data transmission performed by the data transmitter. In a case where user information is inputted by the operation input unit with an address of the external data communication terminal, the notification unit notifies a data processing terminal corresponding the user information of the transmission result information.

Kosaka relates to a data communication apparatus that manages information indicating that data has reached its destination. Nothing in Kosaka is believed to teach or suggest a data communication system that includes "a notification unit, adapted to notify a data processing terminal, via said connector, of transmission result information representing a data transmission performed by said data transmitter based on the designation inputted by said operation input unit, wherein said notification unit notifies the data processing terminal of the transmission result information in accordance with a change in state of said data communication system," as recited in Claim 1.

The Office Action points to column 8, lines 20-67, of Kosaka as disclosing such a notification feature. Applicant submits, however, that the cited portion of Kosaka discusses the use of a common identifier by receiving and transmitting machines, in order have a common reference when exchanging data about the status of various elements. As such, that portion of Kosaka does not describe notification of a transmission result based on a change in state of a data communication system.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is not anticipated by Kosaka, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Independent Claims 18 and 21-23 include the same notification feature as discussed above in connection with Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 7 is directed to a data communication system. The system includes a connector, an operation input unit, a designation unit, a data transmitter, a notification unit, a determination unit, and a controller. The connector

connects the system to a network, which is connectable to a plurality of data processing terminals. The operation input unit receives a manual designation manually inputted by an operator, and the designation unit designates an ID, representing a user's data processing terminal on the network, from the inputted manual designation. The data transmitter transmits data based on a destination inputted by the operation input unit. The data is transmitted to an external data communication terminal via a line that does not include the connector. The notification unit notifies the user's data processing terminal, via the connector, of information representing a data transmission performed by the data transmitter based on the inputted destination. The determination unit determines whether or not the ID is designated by the designation unit, and the controller controls the notification unit in accordance with a determination result of the determination unit. The notification unit notifies the user's data processing terminal of information related to the data transmission upon completion of the data transmission performed by the data transmitter.

Nothing in Kosaka is believed to teach or suggest a data communication system that includes "an operation input unit, adapted to receive a manual designation manually inputted by an operator, said operation input unit being a part of said data communication system," and "a designation unit, adapted to designate an ID, representing a user's data processing terminal on the network connected by said connector, from the manual designation inputted by way of an operation of said operation input unit," as recited in Claim 7.

The Office Action points to Kosaka at column 4, lines 47-57 as disclosing such features. Applicant submits, however, that the cited portion of Kosaka mentions a sender

terminal ID but does not disclose a designation unit adapted to designate an ID that represents a user's data processing terminal on a network from an inputted manual designation. The cited portion of Kosaka discusses including the sender-terminal ID, which identifies a terminal, if a transmission requirement is made from a terminal on the LAN; the cited portion does not discuss designating an ID from a manually inputted designation.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 7 is not anticipated by Kosaka, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Independent Claim 19 includes the same input and designation features as discussed above in connection with Claim 7, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons.

Claims 2-4, 6, and 9-12, which depend from one or another of independent Claims 1, 7, 18, 19, and 21-23 discussed above are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each of those dependent claims is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In regard to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Applicant submits that Kosaka is not prior art to the present application for the following reasons:

The present application was originally filed on December 23, 1997, and was refiled as a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) on June 27, 2001. Kosaka issued as a patent after the filing date of the present application, but was filed as a U.S. application before the filing date of the present application. Therefore, Kosaka can be categorized as a 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) reference that has been used to reject the claims of the present application under 35 U.S.C.

§ 103(a).

However, according to 35 U.S.C. § 103(c) (applicable to applications filed or refiled on or after November 29, 1999):

Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under one or more of subsections (e), (f), and (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

Thus, a reference that qualifies as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) may not be used to reject the claims of a patent application for an invention if the invention and the reference were commonly owned at the time of the invention. MPEP § 2146.

Applicant submits that Canon Kabushiki Kaisha, the assignee of the present invention, commonly owned the present invention and Kosaka at the time of the invention. Therefore, Kosaka may not be used to reject the claims of the present application under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

No petition to extend the time for response to the Office Action is deemed necessary for the present Amendment. If, however, such a petition is required to make this Amendment timely filed, then this paper should be considered such a petition and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite petition fee to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by

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Respectfully submitted,


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

1. (Amended Six Times) A data communication system comprising:

a connector, adapted to connect a network that is connectable to a plurality of data processing terminals to said data communication system;

an operation input unit, adapted to receive a manual designation manually inputted by an operator;

a data transmitter, adapted to transmit data based on the designation inputted by said operation input unit, the data being transmitted to an external data communication terminal via a line that does not include said connector; and

a notification unit, adapted to notify [the] a data processing terminal, via said connector, of transmission result information representing a data transmission performed by said data transmitter based on the designation inputted by said operation input unit,

wherein said notification unit notifies the data processing terminal of the transmission result information in accordance with a change in state of said data communication system,

wherein said notification unit notifies the data processing terminal of the transmission result information related to the data transmission upon completion of the data transmission performed by said data transmitter, and

wherein said notification unit notifies, in a case where user information is inputted by said operation input unit with an address of the external data communication terminal, a data

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processing terminal corresponding the user information of the transmission result information.

7. (Amended Five Times) A data communication system comprising:

a connector, adapted to connect a network that is connectable to a plurality of data processing terminals to said data communication system;

an operation input unit, adapted to receive a manual designation manually inputted by an operator, said operation input unit being a part of said data communication system;

a designation unit, adapted to designate an ID, representing a [user] user's data processing terminal on the network connected by said connector, from the manual designation inputted by way of an operation of said operation input unit;

a data transmitter, adapted to transmit data based on a destination inputted by said operation input unit, the data being transmitted to an external data communication terminal via a line that does not include said connector;

a notification unit, adapted to notify the [user] user's data processing terminal on the network connected by said connector corresponding to the ID designated by said designation unit, via said connector, of information representing a data transmission performed by said data transmitter based on the destination inputted by said operation input unit;

a determination unit, adapted to determine whether or not the ID is designated by said designation unit; and

a controller, adapted to control said notification unit in accordance with a

determination result of said determination unit,

wherein said notification unit notifies the user's data processing terminal of information related to the data transmission upon completion of the data transmission performed by said data transmitter.

13. (Amended Seven Times) A method of controlling a data processing terminal, connected to a data communication system via a connector that connects the data communication system to a plurality of data processing terminals for performing data communication with a destination, and of controlling the data communication system, said method comprising:

an input step, in which an operator manually inputs a destination using an operation input unit;

a transmission step, in which data is transmitted based on the destination inputted in said input step, the data being transmitted to an external data communication terminal via a line that does not include the connector;

a reception step, in which communication result information representing a data communication performed in accordance with the destination inputted by the operator in said input step is received from the data communication system;

an instruction step of instructing the data communication system to communicate with the destination;

a storage step of independently storing the communication result information received in said reception step and communication result information representing a data

communication based on an instruction in said instruction step; and

a notification step of notifying [the] a data processing terminal of the communication result information related to the data communication upon completion of the data transmission performed in said transmission step,

wherein said notification step includes notifying, in a case where user information is inputted using the operation input unit with an address of the external data communication terminal, a data processing terminal corresponding the user information of the communication result information.

18. (Amended Six Times) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for implementing a method for controlling a data communication system connected to a network that is connectable to a plurality of data processing terminals via a connector, the program comprising:

program code for an input step of receiving a designation manually inputted by an operator using an operation unit;

program code for a transmission step of transmitting data based on the designation manually inputted in said input step, the data being transmitted to an external data communication terminal via a line that does not include the connector; and

program code for a notification step of notifying [the] a data processing terminal, via the connector, of transmission result information representing a data communication performed in the transmission step based on the designation manually inputted in the input step

and in accordance with a change in state of the data communication system,

wherein the notification step notifies the data processing terminal of the transmission result information related to the data transmission upon completion of the data transmission performed in the transmission step, and

wherein said notification step includes notifying, in a case where user information is inputted using the operation input unit with an address of the external data communication terminal, a data processing terminal corresponding the user information of the transmission result information.

19. (Amended Six Times) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for implementing a method for controlling a data communication system connected to a network that is connectable to a plurality of data processing terminals via a connector, the program comprising:

program code for an input step of receiving a designation manually inputted by an operator using an operation unit that is a part of the data communication system;

program code for a designation step of designating an ID, representing a [user] user's data processing terminal on the network connected by the connector, from the manually inputted designation;

program code for a transmission step of transmitting data based on a destination manually inputted in the input step using the operation input unit, the data being transmitted to an external data communication terminal via a line that does not include the connector;

program code for a notification step of notifying the [user] user's data processing terminal on the network connected by the connector corresponding to the designated ID, via the connector, of information representing a data communication performed in the transmission step based on the destination manually inputted in the input step;

program code for a determination step of determining whether the ID is designated in the designation step; and

program code for a control step of controlling the notification step in accordance with a determination result of the determination step,

wherein the notification step notifies the user's data processing terminal of information related to a data transmission upon completion of the data transmission performed in the transmission step.